

actually we do have amendments to be offered to the committee amendments. So we will disqualify that suggestion on the motion and cancel the board. We will have to back up. First of all, let the Chair get a couple of introductions out of the way here. In the south balcony are guests of Senator Hartnett. They are from Senator Hartnett's District, and they are guests and friends of Michelle, our Page and assistant up here today, Kathy Murray, Gloria VanDussen, and Steve Bayne. And also Senator Lynch has guests, 20 eighth graders from St. Paul Lutheran School and all are in the south balcony accompanied by their teacher. We are very glad to have you here in the Legislature to watch our procedure, and if you would stand, we would like to recognize you and welcome you. Proceed, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Pirsch has an amendment to the committee amendments. That is found on page...Senator, this is your first amendment and it is on page 2298 of the Journal.

PRESIDENT: Senator Pirsch.

SENATOR PIRSCH: I don't know what is afoot but I feel like I have been overlooked. My first, well, both of my amendments that I had considered proposing today to this LB 144 are on that page. We have talked a lot about property tax relief, and I am speaking to the first amendment now, and we have agonized ever since I have been here and before that over how to send that relief to the citizens across the State of Nebraska. We have proposed 1 1/2 cents sales tax for the cities. We have proposed increasing state aid to education so their budgets would bring property tax relief. We have sent hundreds and hundreds of thousands of dollars to subdivisions aid. We are now currently considering the homestead exemption on giving our property owners who are homeowners some kind of relief, and it is never-ending and it is never enough. One of the things that I have been concerned about the operations of video slot lotteries in the cities that used to have them was the vague and undefined term "community betterment" that the funds could be spent on. What is community betterment? In Bellevue I believe it was the senior citizens center which would require more property tax dollars to heat and staff and maintain. Various communities interpret in various ways what community betterment, and to